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A Full

RELATION

Of A

Barbarous Murther,

Committed upon the Body of

Esq; Beddingfield,

On *Sunday* the 20*th.* day of *July*, 1684.

BY

Mr. Barney:

As Also

The further Account of the Tryal and Conviction of the said Mr. *Barney*, who is to be Executed for the same, at the Market-Cross

IN

NORWICH,

On *Friday* the First day of *August*, 1684.

IF we look abroad in the World, and take a survey of the Actions and Transgressions of Man-kind, we may observe that God very rarely suffers Sin to go Unpunished even in this World: and more especially his Justice takes notice of the Sin of *Murder*, makeing good his own Word therein; *that he that sheddeth Mans Blood, by Man shall his Blood be shed*: yet so it is, that even this Sin is grown so Common amongst us, that scarce a Week passes over our Heads, but we meet with one or other Instance of this Kind, it being looked upon as one of the first Principles of Honour amongst the Sparks of the Age, to Vindicate the least Affront, (or what they shall please to term such) with a Stab or Thrust.

An Instance of this kind the following Relation will Furnish us with. The Judges of *Assize*, Assigned to hold Pleas for the City and County of *Norwich*, having opened their Commition on *Monday* the 14*th.* Day of *July* Instant, Mr. Justice *Windham* hapning to be taken Violently Ill; the Business on the *Nisiprius* and *Crown-side*, both was Managed by the Right Honourable the Lord Chief Baron *Montague*, which occasioned the dispatch thereof to be of longer Continuance than otherwise it would have been; so that the *Grand-Jury* could not be Discharged on the *Saturday* Succeeding;

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ing; but their Attendance was Adjurned till the *Monday* following: the Gentlemen of the County attending the ſame. Amongſt which Number Mr. *Barney* the Priſoner, and Eſquire *Beddingfield*, being Drinking together on the *Saturday* Night, continued together till about two of the Clock the next Morning: at which time, happening upon a Diſcourſe that raiſed ſome Diſpute and Difference between them: Mr. *Barney* being a Perſon very Quarrelſome, Words aroſe between them, and increaſed to ſuch a height, that Mr. *Barney* Drew upon the Eſq; and by 8 ſeveral Wounds in his Body: Four of which were found in his Back. the Eſq; was Slain in the Place, and Mr. *Barney* endeavoured his Eſcape, but the Noiſe thereof raiſing the Houſe, the Gates were Immediatly ſhut; and the Purſuit was ſuch that Mr. *Barney* was forthwith Taken: and being for that Night Secured, the next Morning he was Committed to the Common-Goal: and the Monday following a Bill was peferred againſt him; the *Grand-Jury* not being then Diſcharged, as aforeſaid; upon which they immediately brought in the ſame *Billa vera*. And coming the ſame Morning to be Arraigned thereupon, the Evidence againſt him was very plain that he both raiſed and continued the Quarrel; that he Diſhonourably Kill'd him, and that he was a very Contentious Perſon, and had before that time Wounded ſeveral Perſons, upon very ſlight Occaſions; it being very familiar with him when he wanted Moneys, if he asked any Perſon to accommodate him with a Supply, in caſe of a refuſal, he would threaten them with his Sword; and had Wounded ſeveral upon the like Quarrel.

The Priſoner had very little to ſay for himſelf, only that he was in Drink: thinking by one, to Excuſe another Crime; and that the Words that had paſſed between them, had provoked him into an Extraordinary Paſſion: in the Heat whereof, he had raſhly perpetrated a Crime for which he was extreemly ſorry: and for which he was not only ready to beg Pardon of God Almighty, but of the Relations of the Gentleman he had Slain. But this was not looked on as any thing of a Defence, but rather an aggravation of the Fact. So that the Petty *Jury* without ſtiring from the Bar, brought him in Guilty of the Indictment and Murder aforeſaid; whereupon he immediately received his Sentence: and a Rule was forthwith Iſſued forth for his *Execution* on *Friday* the firſt Day of *Auguſt* next enſuing, at the publick Market-Croſs in the City of *Norwich*. In expectation of which Sentence, he was remanded back to Gaol, where he now continues. Whence it may be obſerved as a Warning to others how they fall into the like Crimes: how juſtly the Judgment of God purſues the Criminal: and more eſpecially for thoſe Crimes which are Committed upon his own Day, which he hath ſet apart for himſelf, and for his Worſhip. Under a due conſideration whereof, it is hoped the Priſoner will conſider his Condition, and prepare for the Sentence againſt him. Eſquire *Beddingfield*, was a Gentleman of great Worth and Loyalty, and well beloved by all the Gentlemen: it being atteſted in his behalf by divers Perſons of great Eminency upon the Tryal, that he was free from the Vices of the Age, and never given to Quarrels or Contentions; inſomuch that he is extreemly Lamented by all the County, and none but acquieſſe in the Sentence as juſt upon the Priſoner: tho he be likewiſe one of a very Good Family, being the ſecond Son of an Ancient *Baronet* in that Country, and a Perſon of known Worth, Loyalty and Integrity. But the beſt of Men may often meet with unhappineſs in their Relations Grace, ſeldom running in the Veins of Generation: whence this may likewiſe be as a caveat to others how they bring Grief on the grey Hairs of their Parents, and put all Men upon remembring and ſerving their Creator in the days of their Youth, before the Evil days come, and the Years draw on wherein there is no Pleaſure: to haſten which days upon our ſelves is doubly a Sin: and that Perſon who is guilty thereof, eſpecially by the Crime of Murder may be looked on not only as Murderer of another but of himſelf, and at one ſtroke hazards his own Soul and Body at the expence of anothers Blood. From which Crime may the Grace of God be ſo prevalent upon us that we may not fall therein: nor ought the beſt of us be ſecure ſince, if we give way to our Paſſions and leave the conduct of Gods Grace and Spirit, the Devil takes Advantage: and having the Rule and Sway over us, many times leads us into the paths of Deſtruction; and then leaves us Miſerably to expect his juſt Judgment upon us, and the Terrors of an evil Conſcience to Rack and Torment the Criminal.

L O N D O N,

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